IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for producing a sustained-release composition, which comprises mixing an aqueous solution containing a physiologically active substance and an acid or base in a molar amount of about 1.5 or more times that of the physiologically active substance with a solution of a biodegradable polymer, and then drying the mixture.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution is obtained using a salt of the physiologically active substance with the acid or base.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the physiologically active substance in the sustained-release composition is about 0.001 to about 50% by weight.

4. (Original) A method for stabilizing a mixture of an aqueous solution containing a physiologically active substance and a solution of a biodegradable polymer, which comprises adding an acid or base in a molar amount of about 1.5 mol or more times that of the physiologically active substance.

5. (Original) A method for allowing a mixture of an aqueous solution containing a physiologically active substance and a solution of a biodegradable polymer to have a viscosity of about 3,000 cp or less, which comprises adding an acid or base in a molar amount of about 1.5 mol or more times that of the physiologically active substance.

6. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the physiologically active substance is a physiologically active peptide.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the physiologically active peptide is an LH-RH derivative.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the LH-RH derivative is a compound represented by the general formula:

5- oxo - Pro - His - Trp - Ser - Tyr - Y - Leu - Arg - Pro - Z

wherein Y represents DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer(tBu), D2Nal or DHis(ImBzl) and Z represents NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2.

9. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the acid or base in a molar amount of about 1.5 to about 5 times that of the physiologically active substance is used.

10. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the acid or base in a molar amount of about 1.65 to about 3 times that of the physiologically active substance is used.

11. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the acid is an organic acid.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the organic acid is a fatty acid.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the fatty acid is acetic acid.

14. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the biodegradable polymer is an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid polymer.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the α-hydroxycarboxylic acid polymer is a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid in the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 100:0 to 50:50.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid in the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 100:0.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 5,000 to 50,000.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 17,000 to 30,000.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a lactic acid polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 15,000 to 50,000 and the content of a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 5,000 or less in said lactic acid polymer is 5% by weight or less.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer having about 20 to about 1,000 μmol of terminal carboxyl per unit mass (gram) of the polymer.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the molar amount of the terminal carboxyl of the biodegradable polymer is about 0.1 to about 5 times that of the physiologically active substance.

23. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the solution of a biodegradable polymer is prepared using a low water-soluble organic solvent.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the low water-soluble organic solvent is dichloromethane.

25. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the mixture is a homogeneous mixture.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the homogenous mixture is an emulsion.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the emulsion is a W/O type emulsion.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the particle size of the W/O type emulsion.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the drying of the mixture is in-water drying.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein an aqueous solution of an

osmotic pressure regulating agent is used as an outer aqueous phase on the in-water drying.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the osmotic pressure regulating agent is mannitol.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sustained-release composition is in the form of a microparticle.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the microparticle is a microsphere or a microcapsule.

34. (Original) A method for producing a sustained-release composition, which comprises mixing an aqueous solution containing 1) a physiologically active substance and 2) an acid or base in an amount of about 0.1 to about 20% by weight of said aqueous solution with a solution of a biodegradable polymer, and then drying the mixture.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34, wherein the aqueous solution is obtained using a salt of the physiologically active substance with the acid or base.

36. (Original) A sustained-release composition produced by the method according to claim 1.

37. (Canceled)